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TIME for KiDS

Ellen Griesedieck has been working on her mural for more than 20 years.

WORKING TOGETHER

A major new mural celebrates American workers.

VISIT…

ARTS

ART OF WORK

There's a mural in Winsted, Connecticut, that's five stories high and 120 feet long. That's longer than a blue whale! Artist Ellen Griesedieck created the mural. She had help from thousands of students all over the country. It took more than 20 years to complete the massive artwork. Now it's on display for the public.

SHARI MARKS; INSET: MARIE STALLING

Artist Ellen Griesedieck sketches an image of Edwin Raymond, a police officer.

PETER BROWN

Griesedieck's mural was unveiled in June 2022. It's displayed in a former factory in Winsted, Connecticut.

COVER: JUDY GRIESEDIECK. BACKGROUND: YEVGEN ROMANENKO—GETTY IMAGES .

Griesedieck calls her work the American Mural Project. It celebrates American workers. Steelworkers and heart surgeons are pictured. So are farmers and a teacher. "There's somebody real behind every piece of this," she told TIME for Kids.

Griesedieck met workers in small towns and cities all over the United States. She took photos of them on the job. Then she painted them. There's Melissa. She's a firefighter in New York City. And Edwin. He's a New York City police officer. "The portrait of him is 18 feet high," Griesedieck says. "But his story is way bigger than that." Griesedieck likes to

Kids made ceramic tiles for the mural. The tiles form a worker's shirt.

ELLEN GRIESEDIECK

The mural shows workers from all over the U.S. One is firefighter Melissa Bennett, from New York City.

ELLEN GRIESEDIECK

get to know the people she paints. This makes her portraits feel more personal.

A Team Effort

Student artwork is also part of the mural. Kids in Pennsylvania made self-portraits. In New Mexico, kids made ceramic tiles. The tiles were pieced together. They form the red and white plaid shirt of a mechanic named Stitch.

The mural is displayed inside a former factory. Parts are still being added. The project is all about collaboration. It's about "making something bigger than you could do on your own," Griesedieck says.

—By Jaime Joyce

Power Words

collaboration *noun*: working together

portrait *noun*: a picture that focuses on someone's face

PIECING IT TOGETHER

It takes teamwork to install a giant piece of art. These workers are using a mechanical lift. They're adding a portrait of Melissa Bennett to the mural. It's just one part out of many. "We've got 116 pieces of marble that look like a jigsaw puzzle of the Statue of Liberty," Griesedieck says. Adding those heavy pieces took more than a month.

JUDY GRIESEDIECK

Kids in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, celebrate the completion of a mural in 2019.

ART FOR ALL

Murals are large artworks painted on walls. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, is known for its murals. Mural Arts Philadelphia has helped create thousands of them. Many of these represent their surrounding neighborhood.

Lisa Murch works at Mural Arts Philadelphia. She's also its director of art education. "Art really belongs to everybody. And should be everywhere," she told TIME for Kids.

Mural Arts runs a youth program. Students get a chance to work with professional artists. They learn how to make murals.

Alaina Ewins is part of Mural Arts. She was 13 when she joined. Now she's a project manager. Ewins remembers her first big project. It was a mural at her local youth center. "We got to design the mural and paint it, which was awesome," she says.

Ewins likes to see how making murals affects a neighborhood. She believes working with people in the community is important. Artists work with people in the neighborhood to design the murals. The result is a piece of art for everyone to see.

—By Ellen Nam

STEVE WEINIK, BACKGROUND: OLGA_Z—GETTY IMAGES

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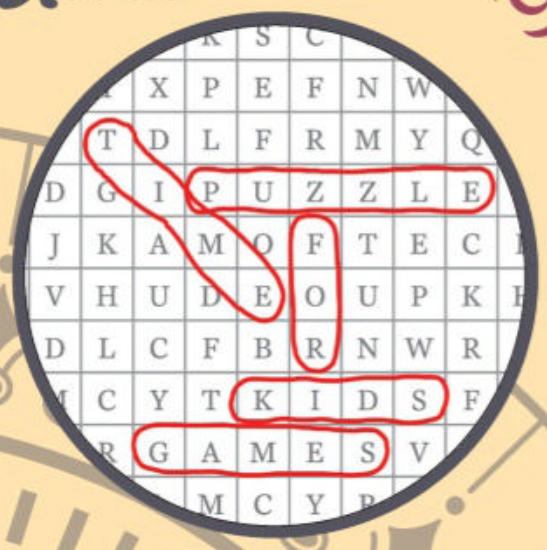


GAMES AND PUZZLES

BORDER: EXTEZY/GETTY IMAGES. BACKGROUND CIRCLE: FOURLEAFLOVER/GETTY IMAGES. FONTS FROM TOP: VECTORDIVIDER/GETTY IMAGES; EPIFANTSEV/GETTY IMAGES; MICROVONE/GETTY IMAGES. CHESS PIECE: CSA IMAGES/GETTY IMAGES. PASIEKA/SPL/GETTY IMAGES

Can You Find Them?

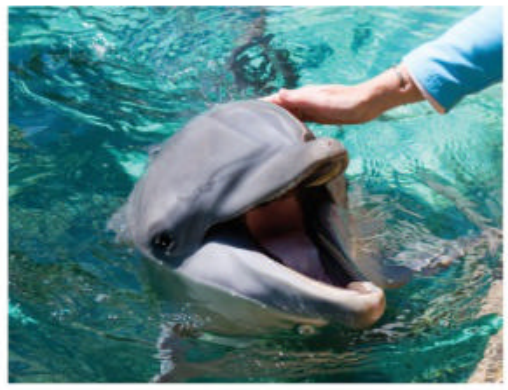
Find the pictures that do not have a match. Then draw them both!

NATAL/GETTY IMAGES

Would You Rather . . . ?

Find a buddy. Take turns asking each other these very important questions. Then come up with your own animal-themed quiz.

Eat a grasshopper
OR
pet a tiger?



Pet a dolphin
OR
ride a camel?

Keep a lizard as a pet
OR let a centipede
crawl on you?

Get sprayed by a skunk
OR
step in cow manure?

Discover a new species
OR
find dinosaur bones?

Keep a parrot as a pet
OR
own a horse?

Pet a monkey
OR
pet a koala?

Have a mouse in your house **OR** have a spider in your bedroom?

See butterflies in your yard **OR** discover a bird's nest?

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ANSWER KEY

CAN YOU FIND THEM?